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Whitehall, November 4, 1776.

THE following Letters from the Honourable General Sir William Howe to Lord George Germain, were received in the Evening of the 2d Inſtant, by Captain Balfour, Second Aid de Camp to General Sir William Howe, who arrived in the Lord Halifax Packet from New York.

Head Quarters, York Iſland, Sept. 21, 1776.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the Satisfaction to inform your Lordſhip of His Majeſty's Troops being in Poſſeſſion of the City of New York.

Upon the Rebels abandoning their Lines at Brooklyn, the King's Army moved from Bedford, leaving Lieutenant General Heiſter encamped upon the Heights of Brooklyn, with two Brigades of Heſſians, and one Brigade of Britiſh at Bedford, and took five Poſitions in the Neighbourhood of Newtown, Buſhwick, Hell-Gate, and Flushing.

The two Iſlands of Montreſor and Buchannan were occupied, and Batteries raiſed againſt the Enemy's Work at Horen's Hook, commanding the Paſſage at Hell-Gate.

On the 15th Inſtant in the Morning, three Ships of War paſſed up the North River as far as Bloomingdale, to draw the Enemy's Attention to that Side; and the firſt Diviſion of Troops, conſiſting of the Light Infantry, the Britiſh Reſerve, the Heſſian Grenadiers and Chaſſeurs, under the Command of Lieutenant General Clinton, having with him Lieutenant General Earl Cornwallis, Major General Vaughan, Brigadier General Leſlie, and Colonel Donop, embarked at the Head of New Town Creek, and landed about Noon upon New York Iſland, three Miles from the Town, at a Place called Kepp's Bay, under the Fire of two Forty-Gun Ships and three Frigates, as per Margin,* Commodore Hotham having the Direction of the Ships and Boats.

The Rebels had Troops in their Works round Kepp's Bay; but their Attention being engaged in Expectation of the King's Troops landing at Stuyveſant's Cove, Horen's Hook, and at Harlem, which they had Reaſon to conclude, Kepp's Bay became only a ſecondary Object of their Care. The Fire of the Shipping being ſo well directed, and ſo inceſſant, the Enemy could not remain in their Works, and the Deſcent was made without the leaſt Oppoſition.

The Conduct of the Officers of the Navy does them much Honor; and the Behaviour of the Seamen belonging to the Ships of War and Tranſports, employed to row the Boats, was highly meritorious. Much Praiſe in particular is due to the Maſters and Men of ſix Tranſports, that paſſed the Town on the Evening of the 14th under a heavy Fire, being Volunteers, to take Troops on Board for the more ſpeedy Diſembarkation of the Second Diviſion.

The Britiſh immediately took Poſt upon the commanding Height of Inclenberg, and the Heſſians moving towards New York, fell in with a Body of Rebels that were retiring from Stuyveſant's Cove; ſome Firing enſued, by which a Brigadier-General, other Officers, and ſeveral Men of the Rebels were killed and wounded, with the Loſs of four Men killed, and eight wounded, on the Part of the Heſſians.

* Phœnix, Roebuck; Orpheus, Carysfort, Roſe.

As ſoon as the Second Embarkation was landed, the Troops advanced towards a Corps of the Enemy upon a riſing Ground three Miles from Inclenberg, towards King's Bridge, having M'Gowan's Paſs in their Rear; upon which they immediately retired to the main Body of their Army upon Morris's Height.

The Enemy having evacuated New York ſoon after the Army landed, a Brigade took Poſſeſſion of the Works in the Evening.

The Priſoners made in the Courſe of this Day were about 20 Officers and 300 Men.——The incloſed Return will ſhew the Artillery and Stores taken.

The Poſition the King's Army took, on the 15th in the Evening, was with the Right to Horen's Hook, and the Left at the North River, near to Bloomingdale, the Rebel Army occupying the Ground with extenſive Works on both Sides of King's-Bridge, and a Redoubt with Cannon upon a Height on the Weſt Side of the North River oppoſite to the Blue Bell, where the Enemy have their principal Work; in which Poſitions both Armies ſtill continue.

On the 16th in the Morning a large Party of the Enemy having paſſed under Cover of the Woods near to the advanced Poſts of the Army, by Way of Vanderwater's Height, the 2d and 3d Battalions of Light Infantry, ſupported by the 42d Regiment, puſhed forward, and drove them back to their Entrenchments, from whence the Enemy obſerving they were not in Force, attacked them with near 3000 Men, which occaſioned the March of the Reſerve, with two Field Pieces, a Battalion of Heſſian Grenadiers, and the Company of Chaſſeurs, to prevent the Corps engaged from being ſurrounded; but the Light Infantry and 42d Regiment, with the Aſſiſtance of the Chaſſeurs and Field Pieces, repulſed the Enemy with conſiderable Loſs, and obliged them to retire within their Works. The Enemy's Loſs is not aſcertained; but from the Accounts of Deſerters it is agreed that they had not leſs than 300 killed and wounded, and among them a Colonel and Major killed. We had eight Officers wounded, moſt of them very ſlightly; fourteen Men killed, and about ſeventy wounded.

Major General Vaughan was ſlightly wounded in the Thigh on the 15th by a random Shot, as he was aſcending the Heights of Inclenberg with the Grenadiers; and I have the Pleaſure of informing your Lordſhip that Lieutenant-Colonel Monckton is ſo well recovered, he has been walking about ſome Days.

Captain Balfour, my Second Aid de Camp, will have the Honor of delivering your Lordſhip this Diſpatch; and, with the moſt profound Reſpect,

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. HOWE.

Head Quarters, York Iſland, Sept. 23, 1776.

MY LORD,

BETWEEN the 20th and 21ſt Inſtant at Midnight, a moſt horrid Attempt was made by a Number of Wretches to burn the Town of New York, in which they ſucceeded too well, having ſet it on Fire in ſeveral Places, with Matches and Combuſtibles that had been prepared with great Art and Ingenuity. Many were detected in the Fact, and

ſome